

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe; and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flecnional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber, wherein said ground contact layer, said upper comfort layer and said intermediate layer are substantially congruous with one another.

Cancel Claim 2.

3. (Amended) In a sport shoe comprising an upper, a sole made from a laminated profile comprising several layers performing distinct functions, respectively, said sole being surmounted by said upper, wherein said sole comprises at least three layers external to said upper, namely:

(a) a ground contact layer with determinate properties of flexibility, gripping and abrasion-resistance which provide good foot extension, good ground traction and a high level of wear resistance;

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe;
and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flectional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber [Sole according to claim 1], wherein said comfort layer is composed of several distinct adjoining zones, said zones including a first zone corresponding to the heel and having a first degree of elasticity; a second zone corresponding to the arch and having a degree of elasticity less than said first zone; and a third zone having a degree of elasticity less than said second zone and promoting control of walking.

4. (Amended) In a sport shoe comprising an upper, a sole made from a laminated profile comprising several layers performing distinct functions, respectively, said sole being

surmounted by said upper, wherein said sole comprises at least three layers external to said upper, namely:

(a) a ground contact layer with determinate properties of flexibility, gripping and abrasion-resistance which provide good foot extension, good ground traction and a high level of wear resistance;

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe; and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flecional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber [Sole according to claim 1], wherein said intermediate layer has a substantially constant rigidity at all points, said rigidity being selected during manufacture as a function of intended use of the shoe.

8. (Amended) In a sport shoe comprising an upper, a sole made from a laminated profile comprising several layers performing distinct functions, respectively, said sole being

surmounted by said upper, wherein said sole comprises at least three layers external to said upper, namely:

(a) a ground contact layer with determinate properties of flexibility, gripping and abrasion-resistance which provide good foot extension, good ground traction and a high level of wear resistance;

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe; and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flectional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber [Sole according to claim 1], wherein said ground contact layer is made of rubber having traction and abrasion-resistance properties.

14. (Twice Amended) In a sport shoe comprising an upper, a sole made from a laminated profile comprising several layers performing distinct functions, respectively, said

sole being surmounted by said upper, wherein said sole comprises at least three layers

external to said upper, namely:

(a) a ground contact layer with determinate properties of flexibility, gripping and abrasion-resistance which provide good foot extension, good ground traction and a high level of wear resistance;

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe; and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flecnional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber [Sole according to claim 1], wherein said intermediate layer [, or rib] (9A) is constituted by a plurality of zones (9a, 9b, 9c) extending on either side of an axis of torsion (X-x') whose stiffness values are different and suitably selected during manufacture as a function of the intended use of the shoe.

21. (Twice Amended) In a sport shoe comprising an upper, a sole made from a laminated profile comprising several layers performing distinct functions, respectively, said

sole being surmounted by said upper, wherein said sole comprises at least three layers

external to said upper, namely:

(a) a ground contact layer with determinate properties of flexibility, gripping and abrasion-resistance which provide good foot extension, good ground traction and a high level of wear resistance;

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe; and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flectional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber [Sole according to claim 1], wherein said comfort layer (8A) comprises, in its rear part, a balanced heel-piece (6A) produced as a single piece with said layer (8A) [and replacing the outer heel-piece (6) of said shoe (1)].

23. (Three Times Amended) In a sport shoe comprising an upper, a sole made from a laminated profile comprising several layers performing distinct functions, respectively, said

sole being surmounted by said upper, wherein said sole comprises at least three layers

external to said upper, namely:

(a) a ground contact layer with determinate properties of flexibility, gripping and abrasion-resistance which provide good foot extension, good ground traction and a high level of wear resistance;

(b) an upper comfort layer located directly beneath the foot, said upper comfort layer having elastic shock-absorption properties and being assembled on said upper of said shoe;
and

(c) an intermediate layer of said sole, arranged directly between an upper part of said ground contact layer, by one of its faces, and the lower part of said comfort layer by its other face, having controlled torsional and flecnional rigidity, and providing both for the distribution of shockwaves and stresses sensed by said ground contact layer and for their diffusion over said comfort layer before coming in contact with the foot, said intermediate layer extending over an entire surface of said ground contact layer and constituting a framework for the ground contact layer preventing deformation of the ground contact layer and thereby permitting it to be made of softer, more adherent rubber [Sole according to claim 1], wherein said ground-contact layer (7B) is formed from skids mounted externally on said [rib] intermediate layer (9) in recesses (20) provided in the [latter] intermediate layer for that purpose.